



# THE MORNING AFTER

## TOWN OF ROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### Mayor's Corner



Beach Kuhl  
Mayor

This month I thought I would outline all the things beyond just attending the Council's monthly meetings that go on in the life of the members of our Town Council. First of all, each Council Member

serves on at least one of the Council's committees: Community Protection, Finance, General Government and Public Works. Frankly, in recent years we have not used these committees, other than Finance, on a regular basis because it is often simpler to bring an issue directly to the Council with the support of a thorough staff report. The committees have been useful in drafting the details of ordinance amendments.

Each Council Member also serves as the

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### Great Turnout for Annual Creek Cleanup

On Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, over three dozen Ross residents including Ross School and Branson School students, turned out to participate in the annual creek cleanup. The main goal of this annual event was to remove loose debris such as branches, brush and litter that had collected in the creek channel since last winter. All of this debris in the creek channel can cause the water to back up, and overflow the creek banks. This year, there was much



less debris than in past years, which is great news because it means that property owners who live along the creek have been doing their due diligence, in keeping debris out of the creek bank and channel.

A big thank you to Council Members Julie McMillan, Rupert Russell, former Council Member Chris Martin, and everyone young and old, who came out to participate in the clean up. The Town appreciates your support!

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### Annual Ross Town Dinner - September 28

The Town Dinner is Friday, September 28th, 5:30-9:00 PM. Dine with your friends and neighbors potluck style on the Ross Common while you enjoy live music courtesy of the Bob Scott All-Star Band. The cost is \$10 per person. Please register to attend by September 24th at [http://www.rossrecreation.org/ross\\_dinner.html](http://www.rossrecreation.org/ross_dinner.html). For any questions, contact [rossrec@rossrecreation.org](mailto:rossrec@rossrecreation.org).



We hope you can join us for this fun annual Ross community event!



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Town's representative on at least one multi-jurisdictional organization. We also have liaison representatives to several Town organizations. Our newest member, Julie McMillan, has dived in with service as our representative to the Association of Bay Area Governments, the County Homeless Committee, and to the Legislative and Disaster Preparedness Committees of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Council Members (MCCMC). Julie is our expert on disaster preparedness, working with resident Gil Fleitas on our Town Disaster Preparedness Council. Elizabeth Robbins is our representative to the board of the Marin Telecommunications Agency. She also serves on the MCCMC Pension Reform committee and as our liaison to the Ross Property Owners Association. Rupert Russell, who greeted the rest of us as we joined the Council, serves on the board of the ever-expanding Marin Energy Authority and is our liaison to the Marin Art and Garden Center. Elizabeth Brekhus, our Mayor Pro Tem, is currently the vice-president of MCCMC and chair of the Board of the Ross Valley Fire Department.

I serve as a commissioner of the Transportation Authority of Marin, on one of its executive committees, and on its Alternative Fuel and Electric Vehicle committee, as a member of the Ross Valley Fire Department Board of Directors and as the Council's liaison to the Town's Leadership Council.

We hope all of this leads to better government but all the evening meetings sure make it difficult to keep up on our favorite TV shows.

Please continue to provide us feedback on the particular areas we are dealing with and on Town issues generally. Having comments make our jobs much easier. ■

### New Ross Valley Fire Chief



Fire Chief Jason Weber

At its July 11th meeting, the Ross Valley Fire JPA Board approved the contract to share management services with the Marin County Fire Department and to have Marin County Fire Chief Jason Weber serve as

Chief of Ross Valley Fire effective August 1st. Chief Weber replaces Acting Fire Chief Roger Meagor, who returned from retirement to help oversee the recruitment of a new Fire Chief. We thank Chief Meagor for his service and assistance in this recruitment and wish him the best in his second chance at retirement!

Chief Weber has provided firefighting skill and leadership to the Marin County Fire Department for over 23 years. He has served in the Department in all ranks, starting as a Seasonal Firefighter to being appointed Fire Chief in March 2012. Chief Weber holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor's Degree from California State University Long Beach, and Chief Fire Officer's Certification from the State Fire Marshal's Office. He currently serves on the California Fire Service Task Force on Climate Impacts and was recently appointed as Chair of the California Wildfire Coordinating Group. Welcome Chief Weber!

### September is Preparedness Month

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsors a National Preparedness Month each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies and to increase public awareness of its importance. A major disaster such as an earthquake, flood, wildland fire, public health crisis, or terrorism, could strike at any time. Do you have a plan for all types of emergencies? Are you and your family prepared for the crucial 72-hour period after a disaster where community preparedness is key to survival?



The Council passed a resolution proclaiming September as Community Preparedness Month to remind residents how vital it is that everyone take steps to prepare for emergencies at home, work or school. Personal preparedness and planning in advance is critical to effectively respond to a disaster.

There are a number of things residents can do to prepare: 1) The recently adopted Ross Wildland Urban Interface ([WUI](#)) [map](#) is currently in effect, and with fires still raging in Northern California, residents locat-

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## PLANNING RESULTS

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications at the September Council meeting. Staff reports and audio for the meeting can be found on the Town's website [September 13th meeting page](#). The minutes for this meeting will be posted after adoption by the Council at the October 11, 2018 Council meeting.

**Address:** 10 Walnut Avenue  
**Applicant:** Julie & Jeff Thomson  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0

**Address:** 42 Shady Lane  
**Applicant:** Abby & Steve Anderson  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 4-0-1 (Brekhus recused)

**Address:** 92 Glenwood Avenue  
**Applicant:** Paul & Cameron Glover  
**Council Action:** Approved  
**Vote (for/against/abstain):** 5-0-0

## FIRE IN MARIN!

### *A free seminar for Marin Residents*

Over 1,200 Marin Residents have attended Katherine Randolph's **Fire In Marin** seminar, learning practical and potentially property and life-saving steps you can easily take to address the ever present danger of a major fire in the Ross Valley. With fire season still upon us, this seminar has been drawing huge crowds. Ms. Randolph will be holding this seminar in Ross on **Monday, October 1st at 7:00 PM**, and on October 27th in Point Reyes. Pre-registration to attend the seminar is required as seating is limited. The location will be provided upon registration.

To pre-register, please email [FireInMarin@comcast.net](mailto:FireInMarin@comcast.net), with the seminar date you are interested in (e.g. October 1<sup>st</sup>), your name, contact number and preferred email. You will receive a confirmation email with the class location. If you have any questions about this seminar, please feel free to contact Gil Fleitas, the Town's volunteer Coordinator for disaster preparedness at [Fleitas@mac.com](mailto:Fleitas@mac.com).

## Council Approves LED Street Lights



The Council approved to opt-in to the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) LED street light replacement program and directed staff to commence with the replacement of the existing conventional street lights with LED technology at no cost to the Town.

The purpose of the program is to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases. In addition, adequate street lighting is an essential safety feature for the community and for vehicle and pedestrian travel at night. PG&E identified 206 street lights throughout Town as being eligible at no cost for the standard LED installation. Over half of these lights are outdated and highly inefficient incandescent bulbs. Replacement of the lights will average an 80% reduction in energy consumption. Energy cost savings to the Town is estimated at \$7,000 annually, and the long 20-year life of LED street lights will reduce outage time and maintenance calls. Ross is one of the last municipalities within PG&E's jurisdiction that doesn't have LED street lights, but one of the first to be offered the "softer" style (2700K) LED fixtures.

On July 16th, PG&E installed eight LED street lights on a trial basis: five 2700K street lights along the Winship-Garden-Wellington loop; and three 3000K street lights on Lagunitas Road between Ross Common and Allen Lane. The two different locations were selected to evaluate lighting levels for different neighborhood scenarios. Residents were encouraged to evaluate the effects that the new lighting had on the neighborhood streets and walkways and provide feedback to town staff, who will continue to monitor resident's reaction as the townwide implementation begins later this year.

## September is Preparedness Month

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ed within the map's fire area should be clearing (where necessary) and maintaining the "defensible space" around their property; 2) Enroll in the county-wide alert system at [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org) to ensure you receive emergency alerts, and subscribe to the Ross Townwide [email list](#) to receive important alerts from Town; 3) Partake in the classes and training available on disaster preparedness such as [CERT](#), [Get Ready Marin](#), and [Fire In Marin](#) (see article opposite); and 4) Review the Community Preparedness pages of the Town's website at <https://townofross.org/emergencyservices/page/community-preparedness>, as they contain very useful preparedness information. ■



## Public Safety

The Ross Police Department requested permission to install a Vehicle Speed Feedback Sign on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard entering the Town from San Anselmo. These signs are used to provide information to drivers of their current speed. Studies have shown these types of devices can slow vehicle speeds by as much as 10%.



The Police Department has received complaints about drivers speeding as they enter the Town, while the road transitions from two lanes into a single lane as it travels through an "S" curve. There have been accidents attributed to speed in this area.



The lighted speed sign would be placed in conjunction with the posted speed limit sign. It will be set to alert drivers that are exceeding the safe speed in that area.

## New Ordinances Adopted

The Council adopted three ordinances at the September meeting: 1) **Social Host Ordinance** (§9.60) - this chapter was formerly called "Underage Drinking", the ordinance title was changed and regulations governing loud and unruly gatherings were updated; 2) **Purchasing** (§2.38) and **Public Projects** (§2.40) - Two new chapters were added to the Municipal Code regarding the purchasing of supplies, services and equipment, and informal bidding procedures for public projects under the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act; and 3) **Wireless Telecommunications Facilities** (§18.55) - A new chapter added to provide a uniform and comprehensive set of regulations and standards for the permitting, development, siting, installation, design, operation and maintenance of wireless telecommunication facilities in the town. You can view the full text of these ordinances at <https://townofross.org/towncouncil/page/town-council-meeting-192>.

## RECREATION NEWS



Ross Recreation hosted a family movie night at the Ross Common on Friday, August 17. Families enjoyed a late summer evening watching the animated film, Monsters Inc. Ross Recreation will be hosting additional events on the Ross Common this Fall including the Town Dinner. Information for future events will be sent by Town email and posted on our Website.



Registration for the Ross Recreation fall program at Ross School remains open with limited space available for programs such as Ballet and Hip-Hop. Registration is closed for programs conducted at Bacich School, as all classes are full.

Please visit [www.rossrecreation.org](http://www.rossrecreation.org) to register for Ross Recreation programs.

# ROSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2018

Sep 3	--	--	Town Hall offices closed for Labor Day
Sep 10	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 13	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 25	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall
Sep 28	5:30	pm	Annual Ross Town Dinner, Ross Common <i>(see page 1 for details)</i>

## OCTOBER 2018

Oct 1	7:00	pm	Fire in Marin Seminar <i>(see page 3 for details)</i>
Oct 8	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 11	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Oct 23	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town hall

## NOVEMBER 2018

Nov 5	7:15	pm	Ross Property Owners Association Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 8	6:00	pm	Council Meeting, Town Hall
Nov 12	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Veterans Day
Nov 22-23	--	--	Town Hall Offices closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 27	7:00	pm	Advisory Design Review Group Meeting, Town Hall

## RECURRING EVENTS

Thursdays, May - October    Ross Farm Stand, 11:30 am - 7:30 pm, Ross Common

## CONTACT US

Administration	415.453.1453 x105	Public Works Director	415.453.1453 x115
Building & Public Works	415.453.1453 x106	Recreation	415.453.6020
Planning	415.453.1453 x121	Ross Valley Fire	415.258.4686
Police	415.453.1453, Option 2	Town Manager	415.453.1453 x107

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Visit us at [www.townofross.org](http://www.townofross.org)



We welcome suggestions for future issues. Email [llopez@townofross.org](mailto:llopez@townofross.org)

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